



ISSUE 10 October 2012

# THE DOMINANT NEWSLETTER



Are you ready for another info-packed DOMINANT Newsletter? Much has happened since we last updated everyone on what's going on with us over here in the Middle East. Since we took GLADIATOR into the shipyards over here, we have watched her be taken apart, piece-by-piece. We are anxious to make her into a vessel worthy of her name once more, but we have some time to go before that can happen.

We said goodbye to three of our Crewmembers this month. While we were sad to see them go, we wish them Fair Winds and Following Seas in the future. EN1 (SW/SCW) Terrell Morgan retired after devoting 20 years of his life to his service in the



Navy. A retirement ceremony was held here in Bahrain. LT Adam Sezate served with us for 18 months starting in April 2011, and MN2 (SW) Patrick McReynolds served onboard for over four years, starting in August 2008. Both were very integral and valuable parts of the command and leave large footprints for their replacements to fill!

Please remember to check out MCM Crew DOMINANT on Facebook if you have not done so already. Select Crewmembers and our Ombudsman regularly update the page with pictures of events, as well as information and resources to help keep you informed while we are away. While our Newsletters contain only a few pictures, our Facebook page offers hundreds – see if you can find your Sailor in a few!

Remember that Mrs. Elicha Moyer is our Crew's Ombudsman. She is more than eager to help our Sailors' families, and she can be easily contacted with an email at [dominantfamily@gmail.com](mailto:dominantfamily@gmail.com). Remember, we would love to hear from you! If you would like to contribute an article from the perspective of a family member of a Sailor or have another idea please forward them along to [john.morgan@mcm11.navy.mil](mailto:john.morgan@mcm11.navy.mil).

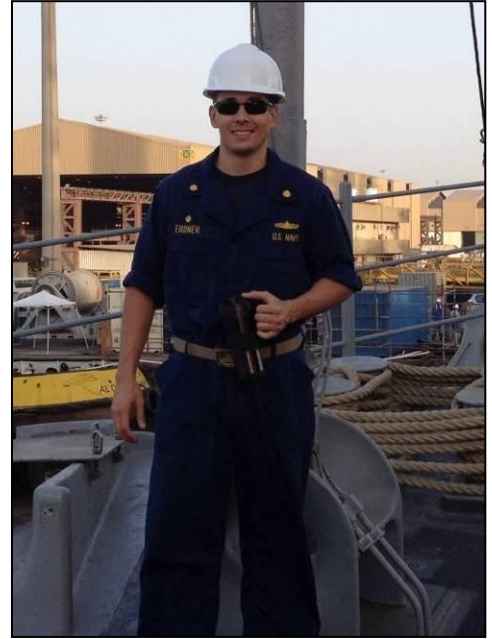
-John R. Morgan III, First Lieutenant

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## CO's COMMENTS

Greetings, Crew DOMINANT family and friends! I hope that everyone is doing well and that you enjoyed the fall colors and your Halloween. We are enjoying the cooler weather out here in Bahrain. It is no longer over 100 degrees Fahrenheit every day, and it even dips into the high 60's at night. Your Sailors are playing a big role in improving USS GLADIATOR's material condition as we execute her Selective Restrictive Availability (SRA). Our time in the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY) has been full of change and transition. All of the pumps and motors in the Engineering spaces have been removed for overhaul while our Combat Systems spaces have changed dramatically with the removal of the Mine Neutralization Vehicle (MNV) and the installation of the 4<sup>th</sup> generation Mine Hunting Sonar. This SRA will provide USS GLADIATOR the needed material improvement to help her execute her missions for the foreseeable future.



As we moved through October our Sailors were able to branch out a bit and participate in the base's MWR activities including softball, soccer and flag football. Normally we would not be able to participate in such events due to our underway schedule; this is certainly one of the benefits of being in a yard period. We have another exciting event coming up in November. Six members of our crew will be participating in a Charity Half IRONMAN along with Sailors from HMS ATHERSTONE and Combined Task Force 52. Several other crew members will help run the event. We will be raising money for the R.I.A. Children's<sup>2</sup> Education Center in Bahrain. Additionally, Crew DOMINANT will be raising money for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society to help those devastated by Hurricane Sandy. It will be a grueling event, but this is just the type of challenge that our Sailors strive to complete! A link will be listed on our Facebook Page (in the near future) that will allow you to donate if you choose to. All donations are welcome and they will go to support our fellow Sailors and Marines.

Speaking of our Facebook Page, our Newsletter Editor, OMBUDSMAN and our Senior Enlisted Leader are keeping it up to date and post new pictures regularly. I want to thank them for their concerted effort to keep us all connected. This allows us to provide the timely updates that keep our Facebook page current. Keep sending us ideas and requests, and we will do our best to answer them. You can reach our OMBUDSMAN (Mrs. Elicha Moyer) through our Facebook page or by e-mail at: [dominantfamily@gmail.com](mailto:dominantfamily@gmail.com). We love to hear from you!

We had a few crewmembers join Crew DOMINANT over the past month: LTJG Mancini and ENS Capistrano. Welcome to the Crew DOMINANT family! I'd also like to wish fair winds and following seas to: LT Sezate, who transferred to the Sixth FLEET staff in Naples, Italy; MN2(SW) McReyolds who transferred to Seal Beach, CA; EN1(SW/SCW) Morgan who has retired after completing 20 years of service. We hope he enjoys every moment with his family!

Until next month; I hope you are enjoying the weather transition and the Presidential election season.

M. T. Erdner  
Commanding Officer

## XO's POST

With just shy of six months' deployment under our belts and the halfway point of our shipyard period behind us, your Sailors of Crew DOMINANT have proven their mettle and found their stride. The time stuck here in ASRY Shipyard has been a mixed blessing of sorts. It is nice to get some extra time in port, but it is certainly no vacation here with supplemental ventilation tubes restricting movement through the ship and the ever-fluctuating production schedule keeping us all on our toes while ducking our heads at the same time. The ASRY workers are showing off their painting skills and GLADIATOR is definitely looking nice when we can catch glimpses of her through the scaffolding. We've been taking advantage of the time to catch up on some admin and the ever-necessary evil of paperwork, but the light at the end of the tunnel is creeping into view and we are

looking forward to getting our ship pieced back together and testing out our repaired equipment and newly-installed systems.

As always, many thanks for your thoughts and prayers. We hope you all had

a happy Halloween and will have an extra slice of pie for us on Thanksgiving!



## SEL's BLOG

### FAMILY READINESS: STAYING CONNECTED THROUGH THE DEPLOYMENT

Salam wa aleikum, or Hello, from the Kingdom of Bahrain. I would like to take this first moment and thank my predecessor, Master Chief Bernard, for a smooth transition into the DOMINANT Family. We say the traditional "Fair Winds and Following Seas..." as he transitions to the position of Command Master Chief for Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic, Staff and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. We will continue the fine work that you have already begun and raise the bar for those who come after us. Bravo Zulu, Shipmate!

As I considered what my first newsletter topic should be throughout the last couple of weeks, I pondered many things that would allow me to connect to you such as Fleet and Family Service Center, finances and the impact of deployments, Exceptional Family Member concerns, etc. But, as a husband of fifteen years and a father of three

children, I found that one topic came to the forefront for me: Family Readiness.

Although the deployment is well underway, is your Family ready? Is your Family receiving the latest updates and receiving the word about deployment get-togethers? Did they get the scoop straight from Naval Surface Forces Pacific, Vice Admiral Cope, through the Mine Counter-Measures Deployment Fair?

Maybe you are new to the Navy "Family" and are experiencing deployment for the very first time. Maybe you have completed a couple of deployments and have this down to a "science," if you will. Are you trying to figure out if it's "just you" or is "this", whatever that may be, a part of the normal deployment cycle? How about your children? Are they experiencing anxiety-related issues while your spouse is gone? Most deployments are different each and every time. Where do you turn to for answers, assistance, or someone to vent to when these questions and more arise?



## ***"DOMINANT IN BATTLE"***

In 1970, the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Zumwalt, created the OMBUDSMAN program. It was established to provide a central and direct link with the Command for our Navy Spouses and Families. It is a vital point of information sharing used to ease the burdens and to open communications with the command from/to Navy families. In 2006, Admiral Michael G. Mullen, CNO, re-emphasized the importance of the program and signed an updated instruction, highlighting the requirement that all Navy families have access to a Navy Family OMBUDSMAN.

More recently, the Navy established the Family Readiness Group. These groups were established to help with preparing for deployments and homecomings, family support during deployments, coordinate celebrations and events, and much more. They are established at the unit level and are led by volunteers from our DOMINANT family.

The OMBUDSMAN and FRG programs are just the start. It takes our families to grow, nurture and thrive together to ensure successful dialogue, focus, and Family Readiness. Each one of us has something to bring to the table. This is why the Commanding

Officer, Executive Officer, and I are counting on everyone to help us make the DOMINANT Programs successful for this and future deployments and eventually set the benchmark for other groups to emulate.

As we know, the United States Navy is not just a job. It is a lifestyle that each of us made the conscious decision to live. This same decision impacts you, our families. Admiral Zumwalt found it vital to the success of our organization to ensure families are taken care of and so do we.

I hope that each of you have taken the opportunity to contact our Ombudsman, Mrs. Elicha Moyer, and sign up for email updates. Additionally, you can gather information about DOMINANT happenings through our website and facebook pages, listed below. Through email and our social media tools, you can connect with others experiencing the same things you are. Sharing the good and the bad not only helps you but also allows other to learn.

As I close, I hope that each family had a great Halloween and I hope each one enjoys a wonderful Thanksgiving. Until next time...

## **CHENG's PIT**

MCM Crew DOMINANT is currently undergoing a maintenance availability period at the ASRY Shipyard. The Engineers are hard at work meeting new challenges in the dynamic shipyard environment. The demands of the availability require your Sailors to be flexible; operating without power or air conditioning and working off of the ship's mess decks while the normal workspaces are being repaired or upgraded. These are just some of the many obstacles engineers have encountered. They have, however, prevailed through the circumstances as always.

The Engineering Department has experienced a few changes to the team this month. Petty Officer First

Class Terrell Morgan has retired from an illustrious 20-year career in the United States Navy. We thank EN1 Morgan for his service and we also thank his family for supporting him throughout his career. The Department also received a new arrival this month; LTJG Joe Mancini reported onboard this month to relieve LT Adam Sezate as the Damage Control Assistant. LTJG Mancini comes to the crew after a successful tour onboard USS PREBLE (DDG 88). Welcome Aboard, shipmate! Your unwavering support for Crew DOMINANT Engineers is always appreciated. Remember to "like" the MCM Crew DOMINANT Facebook page!

## **OPS's STAND**

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October brought another month of hard work in the ASRY shipyards for Operations Department. The ship has finally reached the phase where the work has started to put the ship back together to exit the yards. Each division has been busy overseeing the shipyard work and upgrades going on in their spaces while working hard to maintain their own equipment. This month saw the completion of the installation of the SQQ-32(v)4 sonar upgrade and a start to the testing and hands-on training for DOMINANT's Combat Minemen. The Crew's ITs have also been busy

assisting with the installation of new servers for the ship's computer network. Deck division has been hard at work preserving and painting the topside equipment, and the Minemen in the armory have been pushing hard to get the Crewmembers weapons qualified and ready for inspection. And, last but certainly not least, the quartermasters of Crew DOMINANT have been pushing hard the get the ship ready to re-certify in navigation so the she is ready to exit the yards and get back to sea on schedule.

## **SUPPO's BIN**

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Being in the yards has kept Supply busier than ever. With the shipboard galley being closed the Culinary Specialists have been forced to move off and begin cooking at an off-site galley, which has presented its own challenges. However, they have used that challenge as motivation to improve the quality of food and service and have been successful. One of the highlights that showcases their "fun" side was the bat brownie they made to celebrate Halloween. Plans are also in the works for the Thanksgiving Day meal, which the Crew will be celebrating in Bahrain for the first time in three years.

On the non-foodservice side of things, the work has become a bit more manual than normal. Due to some computer systems being down, the Logistic Specialists have been forced to do what might otherwise be considered "busywork." This has included revamping the HAZMAT locker and the bulk storage area. The next spaces on the list are the laundry space and the rest of the S-1 storeroom!

We look forward to these upcoming months and the challenges they provide. And please remember to like our page on Facebook!!

## **THE PODIUM**

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### **AWARDEES**

#### **Navy Commendation Medal Recipient:**

EN1 (SW/SCW) Morgan

#### **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal Recipients:**

LT Sezate, MN2(SW) McReynolds

**NEW ARRIVALS** – LTJG Mancini, ENS Capistrano

**REENLISTMENTS** – DC2 (SW/AW) Lovorn

**FAREWELLS** – LT Sezate, EN1 (SW/SCW) Morgan, MN2 (SW) McReynolds - You will be missed! A thousand thanks to EN1 Morgan for his selfless 20 years of Navy service!

*"DOMINANT IN BATTLE"*  
**MONTH IN PICTURES**

